

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Meeting of December 10, 2014

Present: Commissioners: Robert Kapusta, Chairman, John O'Neil, Vice Chair, Suzanne Cahill, John DePalma, Victor Ferrante, Greg Harla and Michael Lynch

Absent: Kathy Alagno & Julie Nash

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Mr. Kapusta called the meeting to order at 12 p.m.
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** – A motion was made by John O'Neil and seconded by Greg Harla to approve the minutes of October 22, 2014, as presented.

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

- III. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – As is the routine and the general rule, Chair Kapusta meets with the Mayor prior to the EDC meeting, but the Mayor and Chair Kapusta were unable to meet due to mutual conflicts in their schedules. The Mayor did comment that he was pleased that the commission had invited Chris Saley to be the guest speaker. Chair Kapusta stated that today's meeting would be the last for the year 2014. The next meeting will be the election of officers for 2015. Chair Kapusta informed the commission that he was unable to run for re-election due to the fact that he has served consecutive terms for EDC.
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE** – None
- VI. **GUEST SPEAKER – CHRISTOPHER SALEY – DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS**

Chair Kapusta introduced Christopher Saley. Chris stated that he is one of the many people working on the signage for the City of Milford. The Mayor asked Chris to be a part of the wayfinding project. It has been a work in progress and items needed to be modified because of DOT requirements. Public Works has a sign shop and Bob Trapp is the lead worker for the signs for the City of Milford. The letters are a huge component of the signs. Chris stated that they wanted signs that they did not have to paint, need to get 10-15 years out of the signs, and signs that could be fixed easily in house. There are four

new signs that have been installed and they are located on Cherry Street, near Mr. Max, Stop & Shop, and the Shiny Diner. The cost of the project so far is about \$1,200 a sign. A discussion continued on additional signs to be installed around the City. Chris commented that Public Works is expecting to assist EDC not to be a hindrance. Public Works employees are civil servants and they are here to help the City. Their goal is to eventually put fifty signs up and there will be smaller wayfinding signs. Chris commented that Public Works is working with U.I. for tree removal. There are trees that are considered hazard trees and need to come down and there are certain trees that can be left alone. Public Works is trying to be proactive as opposed to reactive. A discussion continued on snow removal. Chris is looking at how Public Works can be an asset to the business community. He is looking at how to make each area of Milford better. They are looking at centrally located dumpsters. This will save money for the businesses and make things easier for removal. Chris stated that he is a common sense worker. When there is a problem, let's fix it. If they can't fix it, he wants to be able to tell them why.

There are many issues with the hardening of the Milford beaches. The Army and DEEP are involved and there is a lot of progress being made, but it takes a long time to get it done. They are looking to do the Gulf Beach break water. The consultant that the City is working with commented that the State has not approved a break water in thirty years. Chris would like to have a discussion with the powers that be before the City spends any money on the design and get something in writing that they are open to the suggestion. Where the pier is they will be extending about 160 feet. The experts are saying once they extend it this will secure the beach sand and will stop the erosion that comes across. They will take a look at all of the beaches if Gulf Beach works.

Chris is trying to have all municipalities work together on sharing equipment, etc. Public Works would like to do more pavement restoration in house. The State has a spec for the State roads. The City is changing from a sand/salt mix to a new salt for the roads. Most towns have transitioned away for the sand/salt mixture. Chris stated that the library needs a new roof and new air conditioning. He is looking to try to make buildings, etc. more efficient for the City. The Mayor has approved of improving all of the conference rooms at the Parsons. Chris commented that Public Works is undergoing some changes and he is working to improve processes within the City. Solar Energy is the next big item for the City.

VII. STANDING ITEMS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. DOWNTOWN PARKING & LIAISON TO P&Z BOARD – No Report.

B. CHAMBER – No Report.

C. 375TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILFORD/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITY – No Report.

D. PERMIT & LAND USE PROGRESS REPORT FERRANTE/LYNCH –
Mr. Ferrante spoke with Mr. Griffith and he pointed out the loss of
two employees within his department and this has somewhat
expanded the turnaround time for plan reviews, but inspection
times stay on track. Mr. Griffith believes that his department is
responsive to the needs of the builders, etc. In the broader picture,
he is still planning on having a reception concierge to delegate
work. A discussion continued regarding the process of starting a
new business. Chris Saley recommended going to see David
Sulkis, but also to speak with Gary Wassmer, the City Engineer.

E. VISITATION REPORT – Mr. DePalma stated that consumers are
buying more SUV's and they are giving seven year financing on
these vehicles. A discussion continued regarding oil and gas
prices.

F. TOURISM – No Report.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS – None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS – None.

X. FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m. A motion was unanimously carried to
finalize the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna E. Holden